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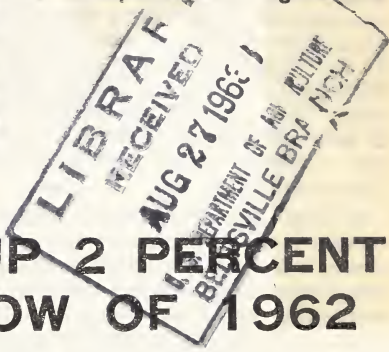
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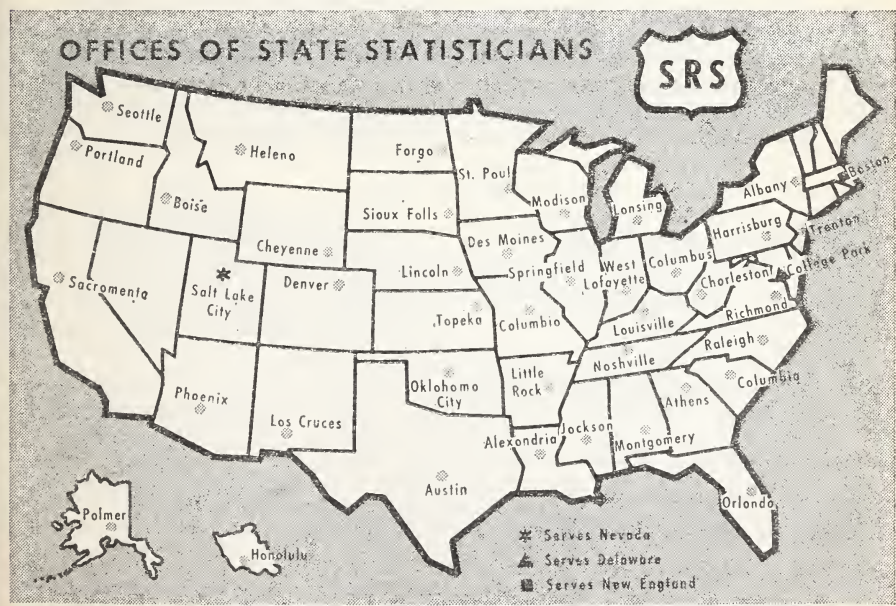
Agricultural Situation



CROP ACREAGE UP 2 PERCENT OVER RECORD LOW OF 1962

The 309 million acres planted for 1963 crops is 2 percent more than was planted last year, chiefly because of increased wheat allotments and less acreage diversion under various Government programs. Losses of planted acreage were

unusually heavy for winter wheat and rye, as winter cold and lack of spring rainfall took a heavy toll. Abandonment of spring planted crops seems to be about normal.



Here are the State offices of the Statistical Reporting Service. Information from crop, livestock, and price reporters is collected and processed at these locations for State and nationwide reports.

The total acreage indicated for harvest is 291 million acres or 1 percent more than the record low acreage of last year, but the second smallest all-crops total since records began in 1909.

Crop prospects for 1963 across the Nation are not quite as good as a year earlier. However, a favorable summer and fall could bring bumper crops to many areas and partly make up for a bad start in others. As of July 1, prospects were generally good to excellent in the West, northern Plains, central States, and most of the North Atlantic area. Spring rainfall was below normal in many areas and soil moisture shortages threaten unless timely summer rains are received.

A large area of poor crop prospects centers in eastern Colorado where a dry spring followed a severe winter causing loss of wheat acreage and reducing the acreage of spring planted crops. Another area where the crop outlook is poor spreads from central Virginia. Much of the Gulf Coast area from Texas to Alabama has only fair prospects, although June rains brought relief to earlier drought conditions.

The 1963 harvest of fall seeded grains was a week or more ahead of the usual pace. Planting of spring crops was also completed a week to ten days ahead of normal, hastened by favorable conditions for field work early in the season. However, cool May temperatures, widespread late May frosts, chronic shortages of soil moisture in some areas, and excessive showers in others slowed development of the major row crops to about average. Spring grains got an early start and remained well ahead of the usual July progress in the important North Central area.

Feed Grains: Tonnage of all feed grains is expected to total more than last year. A 6 percent larger corn

crop is forecast from a 7 percent larger acreage. The indicated yield of 63.2 bushels per acre is lower than the record 64.1 bushels in 1962. Barley production is expected to be 13 percent less and oat production 6 percent less than last year with reductions in both acreage and yield. The acreage of sorghums planted for all purposes is 11 percent larger than last year.

Food Grains: Estimated total production of food grains is slightly more than last year. Winter wheat, the number one food grain, has a 7 percent larger crop indicated chiefly because of a higher yield than last year. Spring wheat production is expected to total 14 percent less than last year as yields are smaller in the important Northern Plains area. Rice production is estimated to be 1 percent smaller than last year while rye output is nearly 30 percent less.

Oilseeds: Soybean acreage expanded 4 percent from last year setting a new record. Cotton acreage totals 9 percent smaller chiefly because of allotment reductions. Acreage of flaxseed for harvest in 1963 is 13 percent larger, but the expected yield is lower than last year's record outturn per acre. Peanut acreage is 1 percent less than in 1962.

Other Crops: Sugar beet production is expected to be 19 percent larger than last year's record high, and a record crop of cane for sugar is in prospect for mainland producing areas. Production of cane for sugar in Hawaii is 1 percent less.

Production of all tobacco is expected to be 4 percent smaller than in 1962, but 21 percent more than average. Prospects for hay are lower with the estimated production 10 percent less than last year and 7 percent smaller than average.

B. R. Bookhout
Statistical Reporting Service

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PER CAPITA FARM INCOME UP IN 1962

The personal income of the farm population from all sources in 1962 was \$20.5 billion, up \$450 million from 1961 and about \$1 billion from 1960. The rise since 1960 was due to an increase in the personal income from farm sources; personal income from nonfarm sources went down slightly from 1960 to 1962.

Personal income from farm sources is defined as the total net income of farm operators, including Government payments, less the net income of non-resident farm operators, plus wages and salaries and other labor income of farm resident workers, less contributions of farm resident operators and workers to social insurance.

On the other hand personal income of the farm population from nonfarm sources is income received from non-farm wages and salaries, business and professional income, interest and transfer payments, such as, unemployment compensation, social security, and veterans' benefits. Also included under nonfarm income is rental income from

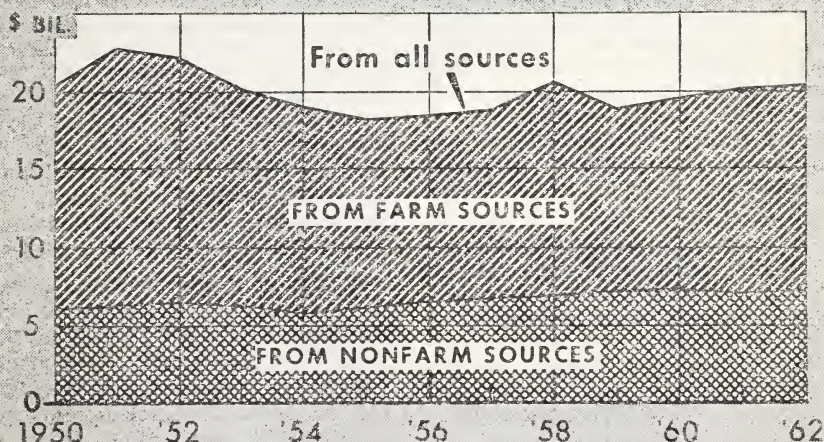
nonfarm sources and an estimate of income from items such as dividends and royalties.

In recent years, farm residents have received about 65 percent of their total personal income from farm sources. For farms in different sales groups, however, this percentage varies. For example, farm operator families, on farms with sales of \$5,000 and over, realize about 75 percent of their total income from farm sources, while those in the under \$5,000 group realize about 30 percent from farm sources.

The personal income of farm people in 1962 was \$1,436 per capita, \$940 from farm sources and \$496 from nonfarm sources. These figures were record highs. Despite the fact that the personal income of the farm population reached a record breaking average in 1962, it was still only 59 percent of the \$2,445 per capita personal income of the nonfarm population.

Mardy Myers
Economic Research Service

PERSONAL INCOME OF THE FARM POPULATION



CALF CROP UP 2 PERCENT IN 1963

A calf crop of 41.8 million head is expected for the United States in 1963, 2 percent more than in 1962 and the largest since 1955, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Increases anticipated in the West North Central, Southern, and Western areas more than offset decreases in the North Atlantic and East North Central areas.

The larger calf crop in 1963, compared with the previous year, is the result of more cows and heifers on farms. There were 48.7 million head of cows and heifers 2 years old and older on January 1, 1963, up 3 percent from January 1, 1962. The number of calves born and expected to be born in 1963 is 86 percent of the cows and heifers 2 years old and older on January 1, 1963, the same as a year earlier.

In the North Central Region, Kansas shows the largest increase from the 1962 calf crop, up 6 percent, followed by North Dakota, up 5 percent, South Dakota, up 4 percent, and Nebraska, up 3 percent. States expecting the great-

est decline in this region are Ohio, down 4 percent, and Michigan, down 3 percent.

The 1963 calf crop in the South Atlantic States is expected to be higher than a year earlier in Florida, up 7 percent, and in Virginia and Georgia, each up 1 percent. The 8 States in the South Central Region each anticipate larger calf crops than in 1962, except Alabama which is unchanged. Texas shows the greatest gain—up 7 percent, followed by Oklahoma, up 6 percent, and Kentucky and Tennessee, each up 3 percent.

In the Western Region, 8 States indicate increases from the 1962 calf crop. However, Utah and Nevada crops are slightly smaller and New Mexico is unchanged. Montana expects a gain of 6 percent and the Wyoming calf crop is up 4 percent. California, the leading cattle State in the West, indicates an increase of 2 percent from 1962.

Ray Crickenberger
Statistical Reporting Service

LAMB CROP 3 PERCENT SMALLER

The 1963 lamb crop totaled 19,695,000 head, 3 percent smaller than the 20,315,000 lambs produced in 1962, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The 13 Western sheep States (11 Western, South Dakota, and Texas) produced 1 percent fewer lambs in 1963 than in 1962. The lamb crop in the 35 Native sheep States (excludes the 13 Western States and Alaska) is 7 percent smaller than last year. Estimates for Alaska are included in the United States total lamb crop.

The lamb crop percentage (number of lambs saved per 100 ewes 1 year old or older on farms and ranches January 1) this year, at 95 percent, was 1 point above 1962. The lambing percentage in both the Western and Native States was the same as the previous year, at 90 and 105, respectively.

The 1963 lamb crop in the 13 Western States totaled 13,294,000 head—1 percent below the 13,432,000 lambs saved in 1962. Breeding ewes 1 year old and

older on farms and ranches January 1, 1963 were 2 percent less than a year earlier. The number of early lambs (dropped before March 15) in the Western States was 1 percent less than in 1962. In Texas, where approximately 15 percent of the Nation's lambs are produced, the 1963 lamb crop was 3 percent below 1962. The Texas lambing percentage was 73 compared with 75 a year earlier. In the 13 Western States the lamb crop was larger than the 1962 crop in 3 States, smaller in 7 States, and the same in 3 States.

In the 35 Native States, the 1963 lamb crop, at 6,396,000 head, was 7 percent below the 6,878,000 saved in 1962. The smaller lamb crop resulted from a 7 percent decline in ewes 1 year old and older. The lamb crop was larger in 6 States, smaller in 23 States, and the same in 6 States.

James L. Olson
Statistical Reporting Service

INCOME FOR POULTRY AND EGGS DOWN FROM 1952

Gross farm income from poultry and eggs (cash receipts plus the value of home use) declined to \$3.3 billion in 1962 from \$3.6 billion in 1952. The decline occurred even though the production of most items increased. During the 1952-62 decade, prices to producers declined 54 percent for farm chickens, 19 percent for eggs, 36 percent for turkeys, and 47 percent for broilers.

Producers' income in 1962 was down from 1952 by about \$0.4 billion for farm chickens and a quarter of a billion dollars for eggs, essentially unchanged for turkeys, and up only \$0.3 billion for broilers. The accompanying chart shows the percentage distribution of income for 1962 among the various commodities.

The large decline in income for farm chickens between 1952 and 1962 stemmed not only from lower prices but from a 43 percent drop in production. Farm chickens was the only commodity to show a decline in output; production

increased 8 percent for eggs, 55 percent for turkeys, and 163 percent for broilers.

Increased production efficiency resulting from advancements in technology, greater specialization, and other changes have greatly reduced the costs of producing broilers, turkeys, and eggs. This development was largely responsible for prices dropping to the relatively low levels of recent years. A downward pressure on egg prices was also exerted by a weakening in consumer demand. And even though the demand for broilers and turkeys has grown, the increase has been great enough to only partly offset the price-depressing effect of the large expansion in production.

William C. Paddock
Economic Research Service



FARM VALUE OF POULTRY PRODUCTS

1962

(Value of Sales
Plus Home
Consumption)

Sales

Home
consumption

TOTAL \$3.3 BILLIONS

Chickens
(farm produced)
4%

Eggs
53%

Broilers
31%

Turkeys
11%

Other
1%

outlook



BROILERS

A significant buildup is taking place in broiler hatching-egg flocks. Chick placements in these flocks were up 22 percent in April, 40 percent in May, and 37 percent in June from a year earlier. If this trend persists, the prospect is for large production and depressed prices this winter.

Third quarter broiler slaughter will be about 5 to 10 percent over a year earlier. In the second quarter, the live weight of Federally-inspected slaughter was the same as a year earlier. Price to producers, at 14.9 cents per pound, was $\frac{1}{2}$ cent higher. Third quarter prices likely will average below the 15.6 cents of a year earlier, but probably will not be low enough to discourage further hatching-egg flock expansion.

EGGS

Egg producers this year are expected to raise fewer layer replacements than in 1962, but the number of layers on farms probably will stay near a year-earlier level in the remainder of 1963. Second half egg output probably will about equal year-earlier production. Prices to producers also are likely to average near a year earlier.

FEED GRAINS

Feed grain output in 1963 was estimated in July at 149 million tons, 4 percent above 1962 but 4 percent below the record output in 1960. Including carryover, supply in 1963-64 likely will amount to about 210 million tons, 5

million less than in 1962-63. Total disappearance in the current marketing year is estimated to be around 154 million tons, about the same as in 1961-62. If disappearance continues its upward trend during the coming year, the carry-over will be reduced moderately by the end of the 1963-64 marketing year.

LIVESTOCK

Third quarter production of red meat is expected to include more beef, veal, and lamb and mutton, but less pork than in the second quarter. Beef supplies probably will include more cow beef.

Prices of fed cattle recovered sharply in July and are expected to hold near midyear prices into the fall. Prices of slaughter cows likely will become seasonally lower through the summer and early fall.

Third quarter hog prices are expected to continue at the current or slightly higher levels. Prices likely will be down seasonally after mid-September until late in the year. They probably will be about the same late in November as a year earlier.

COTTON

The use of cotton in the United States declined sharply during the 1962-63 season, as mill use and exports fell below a year earlier. With 1962-63 cotton use about 11.7 million bales and with a large 1962 crop, the estimated carryover on August 1, 1963, was about 11.1 million bales, 3.3 million above a

year earlier. The acreage planted for the 1963 crop is 14.9 million acres, 9 percent below 1962. The support price for 1963 upland cotton (average of crop) is 31.72 cents per pound compared with 31.88 cents for the 1962 crop.

WHEAT

Wheat production in 1963 is estimated at 1,111 million bushels compared with 1,093 million in 1962. Winter wheat, at 875 million, is 7 percent above last year, while spring wheat is 14 percent below. Exports in 1963-64 are expected to reach 675 million bushels. Price likely will be near the national average loan rate of \$1.82 per bushel.

TOBACCO

The flue-cured tobacco crop in 1963 is estimated at 1,341 million pounds, 5 percent below last year. Total supply for 1963-64 is about 3½ percent above a year earlier.

Burley tobacco production in 1963 is estimated at 670 million pounds, slightly below last year's record crop. Total supply for 1963-64, including carryover, will be nearly 5 percent above 1962-63.

TURKEYS

The turkey crop in 1963 probably will total 93 to 94 million birds compared with 92.3 million last year. The movement of turkey from cold storage last January-June was only 113 million pounds compared with 142 million a year earlier, because of competition from plentiful red meats. Frozen turkey stocks were 90 million pounds on July 1, down 31 million from a year earlier.

SOYBEANS

Soybean supplies during the July-September quarter will be less than in the same quarter last year, while requirements will be greater. Carryover stocks on October 1 may be 15 million bushels or less, down sharply from the 58 million of a year earlier. Prices to farmers this summer will continue strong, prob-

ably averaging 5 to 10 percent higher than the \$2.30 per bushel in July-September 1962. The record high 29.9 million acres planted to soybeans this year was 4 percent above the previous record of last year and the same as indicated in the March intentions report. Farmers plan to harvest 29.1 million acres for beans, a 4 percent increase over last year.

WOOL

World wool production in the 1963-64 marketing season likely will be moderately above a year earlier and close to the record high in 1961-62. World wool prices are expected to be relatively stable during the early months of the 1963-64 marketing season, at levels moderately below the 5-year high in June 1963. Wool use also is expected to remain steady through 1963.

VEGETABLES

The outlook for fresh vegetables and melons is for seasonally large supplies and moderate prices during the next 4 to 6 weeks, as local crops supplement marketings from main producing areas. Canned and frozen vegetable supplies into late summer will be the same or slightly larger than last summer. Price level of most major products will be low to moderate. Potato supplies are expected to remain moderate during August and September. Prices in most areas may be moderate.

FRUIT



Production of deciduous fruits in 1963 is expected to be only 4 percent smaller than the large 1962 crop, despite unfavorable weather last winter and spring. Grape and apricot crops are expected to increase substantially and plums, moderately. Sharp decreases are expected in pears, sweet and sour cherries, and Pacific Northwest prunes. Moderate decreases may occur in apples, peaches, nectarines, strawberries, and California dried prunes. More almonds, but less walnuts and filberts, are in prospect this year than last.

A LOOK AT THE 1962 VALUE OF SALES FOR CUT FLOWERS AND NURSERY PRODUCTS

The value of sales in 1962 in six selected States for four varieties of cut flowers was up 6 percent from 1961, while that of eight nursery products was down about 2 percent. These comparisons are based on the 1962 Horticultural Specialties Survey recently completed by the United States Department of Agriculture for California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, and New York.

The total value of sales for the cut flowers—carnations, roses, chrysanthemums, and gladioluses—was \$59.6 million in 1962 compared with \$56.2 million in 1961. Value of sales has been gradually increasing for cut flowers since the surveys were started in 1956.

California is the leading State in sales value of cut flowers with \$21.1 million, followed by Florida with \$16.7 million. The leading cut flower, in value of sales of \$18.5 million, is the chrysanthemum. Carnations are a close second with \$17.1 million, followed by roses with \$12.2 million, and gladioluses with \$11.9 million. All four cut flowers show a gain from 1961 with carnations making the most substantial advance. Four of the six States surveyed had an increase in value from 1961 to 1962. Only New York and Illinois showed declines in sale values and these were moderate.

Growers intentions for 1963 indicate an increase in production for all cut flowers except gladioluses, which are expected to remain about the same. California and Colorado, the leading producers of carnations, plan to continue expansion of this flower. The production of carnations has expanded in these States since 1956.

Other States will probably have less carnations in 1963, but their reduction will be more than offset by the increases in California and Colorado. Production of standard chrysanthemums is expected to be up moderately in 1963, with all States except Illinois showing increases. Florida pompon growers intend to increase their plants by 26 percent for 1963 and Colorado and Iowa growers plan to increase production

moderately. Other States intend to reduce production somewhat.

Gladiolus production is expected to remain nearly stable with the most important State, Florida, planning no change. Illinois, the other important gladiolus producing State, expects a slight decrease in production.

More roses are planned for 1963, with California and Illinois both expecting more. Florida, although not now a leading rose State, produced about 4 times as many roses in 1962 as in 1961, and growers expect to nearly double their output again in 1963.

The eight classes of nursery products included in the survey were coniferous evergreens, broad-leaved evergreens, deciduous shade trees, deciduous shrubs, rose plants, deciduous fruit and nut trees, grape vines, and citrus and subtropical fruit trees.

Although California is down in total value for 1962, it is still leading the other five States in sales. California accounted for nearly 56 percent or \$30.4 million of the \$54.5 million total value of sales for nursery products. Florida was second with \$8.6 million, followed by New York with \$7.7 million, Illinois—\$5.3 million, Iowa—\$2.2 million and Colorado—only \$0.3 million. California, New York and Iowa all reported less sales in 1962 than in 1961.

For the six States, broad-leaved evergreens were valued at \$16.9 million, coniferous evergreens at \$11.7 million, citrus and subtropical fruit trees at \$8.1 million, rose plants at \$5.8 million, deciduous fruit and nut trees at \$4.7 million, deciduous shade trees at \$4.3 million, deciduous shrubs at \$2.6 million and grape vines at \$0.4 million. Only broad-leaved evergreens, deciduous shade trees, and citrus and subtropical fruit trees increased over 1961 in total value of sales.

All values above represent equivalent wholesale value of sales.

J. R. Standley
Statistical Reporting Service

IF PAYING GUESTS ARE INJURED . . . DOES YOUR FARM LIABILITY INSURANCE COVER IT?

Each season more farmers are getting additional income from recreational activities provided for fee-paying guests. But with this increase in income a farm owner needs to protect himself with additional liability insurance, beyond his ordinary personal liability or "farm owners" policy.

In accepting pay for the use of his land for camping, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, trap or skeet shooting, fishing, swimming, and boating, the farmer is responsible for carelessness or neglect that might be proven the cause of an accident.

If you have a recreation sideline on your farm, and already have a farmer's comprehensive personal liability (FCPL) policy, you may be able to get your insurance company to cover your income-producing side activities as an endorsement to your existing policy for a small extra premium. See your agent about it.

One company, sponsored by a farm organization, makes a flat charge per activity; for example, it charges \$24 a year for fishing, \$24 for hunting, \$24 for a picnic area, and \$50 for horseback riding (any number of saddle horses)—regardless of the number of people using the facility. For a vacation farm, with board and lodging furnished, it charges \$16 a year for from 1 to 5 guests, and \$24 if from 6 to 10 guests can be accommodated at one time. Other companies are considering the possibility of also setting up scheduled flat charges, by activities, so that farmers who already have FCPL policies may cover their side activities at moderate cost.

If (1) you don't have an FCPL policy or (2) if you have one and can't get an endorsement to it to cover paying guests, you will have to obtain your liability insurance on your farm recreational facilities under an owner's, landlord's, and tenant's (OL&T) policy. This makes it a bit more complicated for you and the agent. Your premium will vary not only by kind of activity but by "exposure"—usually measured

by your total fees collected in a year or by the number of people using a recreation facility on your farm.

Here is an example of what you might expect to pay. A "15/30/5" policy means your coverage limits would be \$15,000 for bodily injury to 1 person, \$30,000 for injuries to 2 or more persons involved in 1 accident, and \$5,000 for property damage. For hunting or fishing, for example, your premium for coverage at 15/30/5 might amount to from 50 to 65 cents per \$100 of receipts. As a floor on the premium, the company might set a minimum of about \$35, so that you would have to pay at least that much, regardless of your receipts from the hunting or fishing. The premium for coverage at 15/30/5, or even 25/50/5, would be just a little higher than for coverage at 5/10/5; but it is best to have your coverage high enough so that you are reasonably sure a judgment will not exceed your policy limits. You will be surprised at how little extra the higher coverage costs.

Now let's look at fairly typical coverage and costs of OL&T policies: (1) A vacation farm in New Hampshire—2 cabins, recreation hall, tenting, board and lodging or facilities for campers with their own equipment and provisions—receipts, \$9,000; annual premium, \$120, and (2) a dairy farm in Connecticut—52 acres on a lake—fishing, boating (10 boats), picnicking, basketball court, play area for children—receipts, \$2,000; annual premium, \$200.

Ralph R. Botts
Economic Research Service



The Farmer's Share

In May the farmer's share of the consumer's food dollar was 36 cents, one cent less than it was in April. In May 1962, the farmer's share was 37 cents.

PEARS . . . A MARKED SHIFT FROM FRESH TO PROCESSED

Three noteworthy developments have marked the pear economy since 1935:

- Increasing production in the Pacific Coast States.

- A shift from fresh use to processing.

- A small increase in total use but a moderate decrease in per capita consumption.

A widely produced crop, pears are grown in every State except Alaska. But most of the commercial production is in California, Oregon, and Washington. Last year, pears ranked third in value of production of deciduous tree fruits—they were exceeded only by apples and peaches.

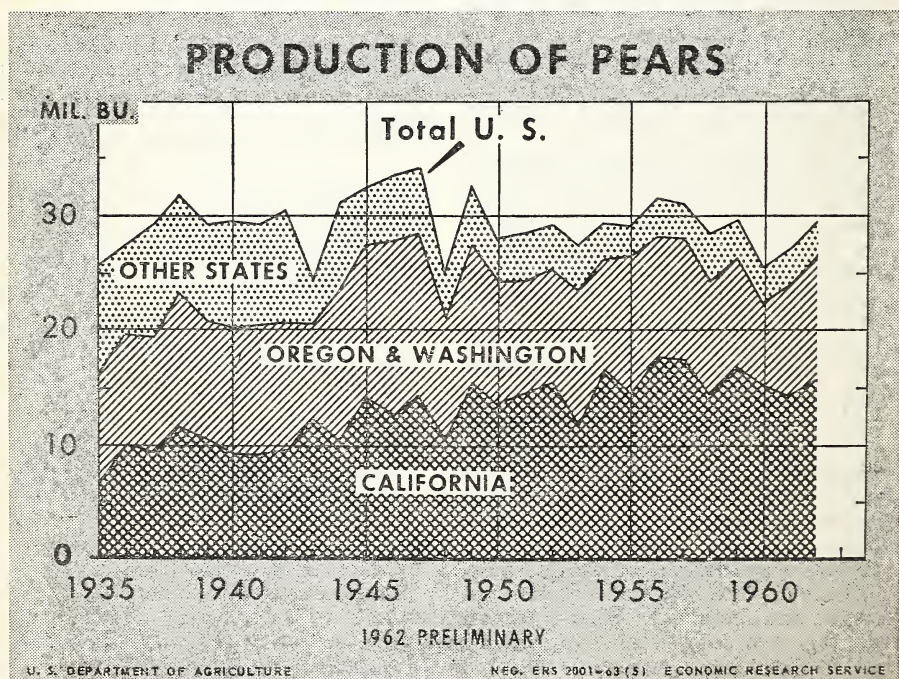
Pear production in the three Pacific Coast States increased about 25 percent from the late 1930's to the early 1960's. Most of the gain was in California. In other commercial pear States, production dropped about 65 percent.

As a result, about seven-eighths of the national crop has been grown in the Pacific Coast States in recent years. In these three States, Bartlett's comprised about three-fourths, and other varieties, mostly "winter pears" such as the D'Anjou, made up the rest.

Pear production over the past two decades has been marked by a decrease in the number of farms growing them. But production was maintained through increased yields per tree in fewer but larger orchards.

The decline in number of farms growing pears, especially an apparent reduction in family farm orchards, has resulted in a drastic decrease in farm home use of pears since 1935. The volume of pears marketed for fresh use also dropped substantially.

Meanwhile, the volume of pears sold for processing about doubled, as a transition from fresh to processed sales occurred during the late 1940's. In recent



years, about three-fifths of the pears marketed were sold for processing.

Since 1935, use of pears for canning more than doubled, while use for drying dropped by about three-fourths. So canning accounted for about 97 percent of the pears processed in recent years. There have been similar trends in fresh and processed use of other fruits, such as peaches and apples.

Most canned pears are Pacific Coast Bartletts. Canning has taken about three-fourths of the Pacific Coast Bartletts marketed in recent years. In contrast about 85 percent of the sales of other Pacific Coast pears were marketed for fresh use, about matching fresh use of Bartletts.

California leads other States in the output of canned pears. Moreover, it is the only State in which canned fruit cocktail is reported. Of the 1962 pack of canned pears, 55 percent was made

in California, 38 percent in Oregon and Washington, and 7 percent in other States.

Total consumption of pears, fresh and processed combined (fresh equivalent basis) averaged about 5 percent larger in 1959-62 than in 1935-38. But with the increasing population, per capita consumption was about 25 percent smaller. Pears now make up about 3 percent of all fruit consumed.

Underlying the trends in per capita consumption of pears since 1935—down for fresh and dried, but up for canned—are conditions similar to those found in like trends in other fruits. They include increased production of pears, rising output of canned pears and fruit cocktail, attractive retail prices for these items, and the desire of consumers for more variety.

Ben H. Pubols

Economic Research Service

CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS CONTINUE HIGH

On July 1, cattle feeders in the 28 major feeding States had 11 percent more cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market than a year earlier. The number on feed was 6.8 million head this July 1 compared with 8.1 million head on April 1 and 6.1 million head on July 1, 1962. Increases from a year earlier were shown in all weight groups with cattle weighing over 900 pounds, up 17 percent.

There were 4.4 million head on feed in the North Central Region—13 percent more than a year earlier. All States in this region except Missouri had more cattle on feed. Iowa, the leading State, was up 9 percent. The 11 Western States had nearly 2.0 million cattle and calves on feed—7 percent more than July 1, 1962. All States in this region had more on feed than a year earlier except Wyoming, unchanged, and Washington where the number decreased. In other regions, Texas and Oklahoma had increases in cattle on feed, but Pennsylvania and Georgia had fewer, and Alabama had the same number as a year earlier.

The breakdown of number on feed by weight groups showed the following changes from July 1, 1962: Under 500 pounds, up 24 percent; 500 to 699 pounds, up 3 percent; 700 to 899 pounds, up 11 percent; 900 to 1099 pounds, up 15 percent; and 1100 pounds and over, up 25 percent from a year earlier.

There were 14 percent more steers and steer calves on feed and 6 percent more heifers and heifer calves than for this date last year in the 28 feeding States.

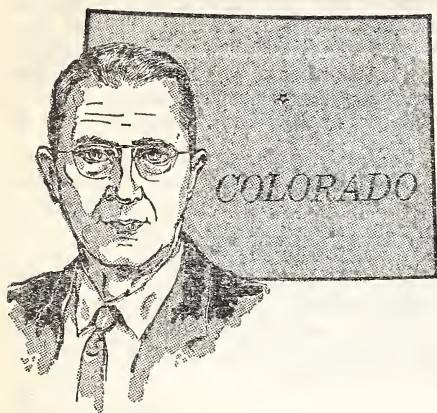
On July 1, cattle which had been on feed less than 3 months were up 7 percent from a year earlier, those on feed 3 to 6 months were up 2 percent, and the number on feed more than 6 months was up 28 percent.

During April-June, cattle and calves placed on feed were up 6 percent and marketings of fed cattle for slaughter were up 7 percent compared with a year earlier.

Cattle feeders expect to market 9 percent more cattle for slaughter during July-September this year than for this period in 1962.

Meet the State Statistician . . .

ROBERT S. OVERTON



During World War II, Robert S. Overton logged a lot of miles between New Guinea and Japan. As a naval lieutenant in an amphibious group, he served with one of the first units flown into Japan to set up harbor control communications to help bring in the Seaborne Occupation Forces.

While in Japan, Lieutenant Overton planned on owning and raising purebred cattle when he returned to the States. The plan was not new. As a boy on his uncle's farm in Knoxville, Iowa, he had developed a permanent interest in the genetics of cattle breeding.

On the farm he learned something of the "fine art of genetics." Through high school he maintained an active interest in genetics and agriculture. In line with that interest, he majored in math and economics and went on to study at Lake Forest College and afterwards completed advanced courses at Drake University.

He launched his career in government agriculture in the Agricultural Adjustment Agency in Marion County, Iowa in 1937. The Triple A opened a new and exciting world for Overton and he became intrigued with crop reporting work. Later he served for more than two years as Under Secretary in the Iowa Department of Agriculture.

In 1939, he transferred to the Iowa Crop and Livestock Reporting Service as a State collaborator. Then came 1943, World War II, and the Navy.

In 1946, he returned to the Iowa Department of Agriculture. After four years in the Iowa office he resigned and devoted his full time and energy to an extensive livestock farming operation in Marion County, Iowa. Four years later he returned to government service with the Agricultural Division of the Bureau of the Census. For his outstanding work, the Census Bureau presented him with a superior service award.

Transferred to Washington as a livestock specialist with the Crop Reporting Service in 1954, he served in the Nation's capital until 1956, when he was sent to the Regional Livestock Office in Denver, Colorado.

Last year he was appointed State Statistician in Charge there. In that capacity, he and his staff traveled more than 30,000 miles on official business last year and conducted some 300 mail surveys to get the facts and figures of Colorado agriculture. He and his crew also attended 75 meetings and delivered 23 lectures.

They also began a winter wheat quality check throughout the eastern area, and drew up plans for soil moisture checks in the fall and spring.

Overton is a busy man, yet he manages to find time to care for his herd of purebred cattle. With his family he lives on a small irrigated farm in Hygeine, Colorado. His wife, Helen, and he have two children. Richard, 15, attends high school, and Elizabeth, 20, is majoring in home economics at Colorado State University.

As a gift, Overton gave each member of his family a few purebred black cows. When the children are home from school, purebred cattle provide an endless topic for talk around the dinner table.

Third Annual Crop Report Released In Alaska

The Alaskan Crop Reporting Service recently released its third annual farm production report—this one on 1962 production.

Crop reporting is relatively new to the State, but the growth of reliable farm statistics is evident, as this and other new reports present an increasingly detailed picture of Alaskan agricultural production.

Less than 0.2 percent of the land area in Alaska is devoted to agriculture, and about 93 percent of this small portion consists of grazing lands (most of which is in the southwest and western areas) leased from the Bureau of Land Management. Of the 375 million acres that make up Alaska, only 888,000 are listed as farm land.

Here are some highlights of what took place in Alaskan agriculture in 1962:

DAIRYING—Production and marketing changes—sanitation and health regulations on farms tightened—intensive herd culling—plans made to improve markets to meet industry needs.

POULTRY AND EGGS—A trend toward fewer and larger flocks continued—1962 production about the same as a year earlier.

MEAT AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS—Beef slaughter up over 100 percent from 1961, due to culling of dairy animals and increased veal marketings—pork down a fourth—reindeer slaughter about the same—lamb and mutton production slightly up from 1961.

POTATOES—Potatoes continued to hold second place in 1962 as an important cash crop, despite lowest cash receipts since 1959.

VEGETABLES—Production generally over that of 1961.

CROP ACREAGE—Acreage planted to crops in 1962 totaled 10,600 acres, up 4 percent from 1961. Grain mixtures, mostly oats and peas with some barley, accounted for all of the increase in planted acreage.

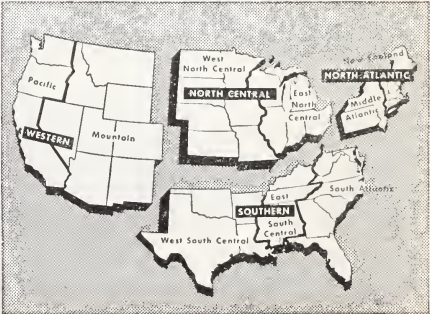
James A. Gardner
Office of Management Services

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